

Davis, Hall-Long Joint Statement Urging Congress to Pass Able Age Adjustment Act

Two of Delaware's statewide elected officials who have also served as healthcare professionals urge support of federal legislation that would expand eligibility for a program that offers financial stability to individuals with disabilities.

“Less than one year ago, Delaware took the positive step of launching an ABLE program, known as **DEPENDABLE**, which allows individuals with disabilities to create savings plans without jeopardizing other important government benefits. Savings in an ABLE account can be used for medical services not covered by insurance, transportation, housing – things that can drastically improve a person's quality of life. According to the CDC, Delawareans spend \$1.2 billion in disability-related healthcare expenditures alone. Financial wellbeing is an important component of overall personal health, and recognizing the economic disadvantages of those who have disabilities helps us to create a more stable path towards wellness.

By passing the ABLE Age Adjustment Act (S. 651), the ability to save would expand from individuals who acquired a disability before age 26, to those whose disabilities began before age 46. This would allow the program to help so many more Delaware residents, including service members and veterans. We urge Congress to help ensure our family members, friends, and neighbors can have a financially stable future by expanding eligibility for this important program.”

The Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) program allows for the creation of tax-advantaged savings accounts for individuals with disabilities without compromising eligibility

for federal benefits such as Medicaid and Social Security. Delaware's ABLE plan was first facilitated by bipartisan [HB60](#) and Primary Sponsor Rep. Melanie George Smith. Additional Sponsors included Senate Members Henry, Cloutier, Peterson, McDowell, and Lavelle as well as Reps. Paradee, Heffernan, Ramone, and Miro.

DEPENDABLE is administered by the Office of the State Treasurer.

Learn more about Delaware's ABLE Plan by visiting ABLE.delaware.gov.